

plans for Dyea and the Chilkoot Trail and will expand park management, development, resource (cultural and natural) protection, and maintenance components to meet most of the expected visitor-use increases and interests in the park. A Klondike History Research Center will be established, in cooperation with the city of Skagway and state of Alaska, to process, study, conserve, and store historical, ethnographic, and natural history artifacts. In Seattle, the plan will eventually lead to acquiring a permanent location for the park visitor center, park offices, and historic collections. The interpretive focus will shift with more emphasis toward the role of the Pacific Northwest in the gold rush.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), published in the Federal Register in May 1992, formally initiated the National Park Service planning and EIS effort for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. A draft and final plan and EIS were prepared. The final plan and EIS describes a proposed action for the three Alaska units and one Seattle unit of the park and three alternatives (two in Seattle) to provide additional opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the park units while protecting the park's cultural and natural resources. A no-action alternative also is evaluated.

The ROD documents the decision of the National Park Service, regarding the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park plan. This ROD briefly states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, specifies the environmentally preferable alternative, and defines a course of action for implementing the decision, including mitigating measures.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Superintendent Willie Russell, Klondike Gold Rush-Seattle, 117 South Main St, Seattle WA, 98104, telephone: (206) 553-7220, FAX: (206) 553-0614 or Superintendent Clay Alderson, Klondike Gold Rush NHP, PO Box 517, Skagway, AK 99840, telephone: (907) 983-2921, FAX: (907) 983-2046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Mosby, National Park Service, Alaska System Support Office. Telephone: (907) 257-2650 FAX: (907) 257-2510.

Dated: March 7, 1997.

Marcia Blaszn,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska.

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Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali, AK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the record of decision for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali, Alaska.

SUMMARY: The National Park Service announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Development Concept Plan for South Side Denali. The plan was prepared cooperatively by the National Park Service, State of Alaska, Denali Borough, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Ahtna, Inc. and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., two Native regional corporations with substantial land ownership within the planning area, participated as planning partners pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Public Law 92-203, Sec. 2(b).

The emphasis of the plan is to enhance access and recreational opportunities throughout the south Denali region for a variety of visitors, including Alaskans, independent travelers, and package tour travelers, while at the same time protecting the important resource and community values in the area, including the rural lifestyle of local residents. Visitor facilities are planned for the Tokositna area at the western edge of Denali State Park near the end of an upgraded and extended Petersville Road, in the central development zone of Denali State Park along the George Parks Highway, at Chelatna Lake, and in the Dunkle Hills. Appropriately-sited bicycle and pedestrian enhancements along the Petersville Road also are part of the plan.

In cooperation and where desirable, a partnership between the National Park Service, local communities, ANCSA Native corporations, and the state of Alaska will develop visitor facilities and services in the central development zone of Denali State Park, at Broad Pass, and in Talkeetna, when the need and opportunity to do so are established. Similarly, in cooperation and where desirable, partnerships for providing additional visitor services along the George Parks Highway may be pursued.

A phasing and funding schedule will be developed by a South Side Denali Plan Implementation Partnership to be established by the governor. Phasing construction of developments will allow orderly plan implementation over an established period of time that compliments funding availability and addresses visitor needs.

A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS), published in the Federal Register in April 1991 (56 FR 15931), formally initiated the National Park Service's planning and EIS effort for the south side. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the National Park Service prepared a draft plan and EIS, published in 1993; however, a final was never completed. Instead, a Notice of Intent to prepare a revised draft EIS was published in the Federal Register in October 1995 (60 FR 54705), reinitiating the planning process for the south side as a cooperative effort among the major land managers in the region. A draft and final plan and EIS were prepared by the cooperating partners, with the National Park Service acting as the lead federal agency. The final plan and EIS describes and analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed action and two other action alternatives. A no action alternative also is evaluated.

The Record of Decision (ROD) documents the decision of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, regarding the South Side Denali plan. The State of Alaska has signed this ROD in concurrence with its findings. This ROD briefly discusses the background for the planning effort, states the decision and discusses the basis for it, describes other alternatives considered, specifies the environmentally preferable alternative, identifies measures adopted to minimize potential environmental harm, and summarizes the results of public involvement during the planning process.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD are available on request from: Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve, Post Office Box 9, Denali Park, Alaska 99755.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Swanton, Park Planner, Denali National Park and Preserve. Telephone: (907) 257-2651 FAX: (907) 257-2485 Email: Nancy Swanton@nps.gov.

Dated: March 7, 1997.

Marcia Blaszn,

Acting Regional Director, Alaska.

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Niobrara National Scenic River Advisory Commission

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets the schedule for the forthcoming meeting of the